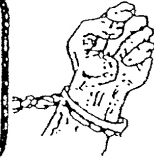




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SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN  
POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)



January 16/2011

## INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND FORCED EXILE

Background: After the TPLF/EPRDF took over power in 1991 it incorporated to its home region of Tigrai many fertile regions from Wello and Gondar. Thus the fertile Humera region near the Sudanese border was merged into Tigrai. Since then, the ruling regime has tried to displace the locals and replace them with settlers from Tigrai.

The Present : Socepp has received reliable reports both from Gondar and Khartoum that more and more Welkait locals have been internally displaced to Gondar and forced into exile into the Sudan. Immigration officers in Khartoum report an increasing number of Welkait refugees crossing into the Sudan. Most are farmers whose lands have been taken over b the ruling regime's agro industrial companies and by Tigrean settlers. This is yet another gross violation of rights by the Meles Zenawi regime and SOCEPP condemns it with vigor.

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